10/28/73

Dear Harold,

As usual, once the school year sets in, I got very much behind on filing your correspondence, and even in reading some. I had been wondering why I had gotten no response from you on my request about my "noise pollution" research project, and as I now just went through about 5 envelopes of letters from you, I see that you did indeed respond immediately. The course for which I have to do that research I am not taking for a grade, but rather for a Pass/Fail rating, that is, if I pass I get credit for taking the course, if I fail, I get a failing grade. That means I get to take the course but am not under pressure to devote as much time or energy to it as I must to more important courses, especially my thesis. As it turns out, the course is shamefully simple, geared, doubtlessly, to the football players of the school and all those others whose only contribution is satisfying the Daddy-Bigbucks trustees whose fat contributions help keep the school going. What I'm getting at is that the paper I do for this course does not have to be a masterpiece, and that is just as well, since my prime concern is in writing my thesis and devoting time to 2 other heavy reading courses I have. I'd like to do all the research I have to when I am at your place, and as I explained before, that is somewhat just an excuse to come visit, since I might be able to do some of the work here. However, I'd like to use original material and primary sources as much as possible, both to maintain my own interest and produce something other than the usual rehash.

Looking at the calander now, the weekend of Nov 9-12 seems good for me. How about you? Thanksgiving weekend might even be better for me, although right now I'd prefer to come sooner and I might want to do other work over Thanksgiving.

I read your letter of recommendation, and I was deeply touched by it; I cannot thnak you enough. It was a very significant letter and seems exactly relevant to what law schools want to know about their applicants, nothing immaterial or meaningless. The reason I originally said I did not want to see a copy is that I believe it is not proper to request that someone write a frank evaluation of me with the understanding that I am to see it, in other words, I wanted to avoid all possible consequences, even the unintentional. As long as you wrote the letter and did not object to me seeing it, I did not object. With you, actually, my reasoning is not relevant, since I have absolute faith in your honesty and integrity. With a professor, however, it would be a different case, and I think his evaluation of me could well be influenced if he wrote it thinking I would see it at some point.

I'm sending a couple things under separate cover. I hope everything is well with you and Lil. My best to both of you, and I hope to see you soon. Harold

P.S.-You have quite a reputation at my house. It was rather late at night when we learned that Nixon had fired Cox, etc. We were really excited, and everyone was asking me to call you to find out what it all meant. I told them that as much as we all might want to hear your instant analysis, it was too late to call!